

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NATO, TU, GR

SUBJECT:LUNS' COMMENTS TO GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE

REF: ATHENS 1727

1. WE CHECKED WITH GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE ON COMMENTS LUNS MIGHT HAVE MADE AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 26, WHICH COULD HAVE TRIGGERED REPORT DESCRIBED REFTEL.

2. FROM WHAT WE PIECE TOGETHER, DURING CONVERSATION FOLLOWING LUNCH, AND PRESUMABLY ON SUPPOSITION THAT HIS REMARKS WERE PRIVILEGED, LUNS COMMENTED GENERALLY ON DOMESTIC INSTABILITIES IN SOUTHERN FLANK COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT SOME AMERICANS TEND TO OVERSTATE THESE INSTABILITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN HIS OPINION THE CURRENT GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD DONE QUITE WELL IN ESTABLISHING ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITY AND HAD SHOWN CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT. TO

ILLUSTRATE THIS RESTRAINT, LUNS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WERE HE, LUNS, A MEMBER OF THE CURRENT GREEK GOVERNMENT WITH MEMORIES OF RULE BY THE COLONELS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN SORELY TEMPTED TO STAND THEM UP AGAINST THE WALL AND SHOOT THEM. TO FURTHER ILLUSTRATE THE RESTRAINT WHICH SEEMS NOW TO BE CHARACTERISTIC OF GREEK POLITICS, LUNS WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT HE WAS SURPRISED THAT PAPADOPOULOS DID NOT EXECUTE PANAGOULIS; LUNS WOULD HAVE HAD PANAGOULIS SHOT

WERE HE IN PAPADOPOULOS' SHOES.

3. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE GREEK EMBASSY HAS INQUIRED OF GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE REGARDING LUNS' REMARKS AND HAS BEEN GIVEN ESSENTIALLY THE FOREGOING ACCOUNT.

KISSINGER

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